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and Baie des Chaleurs by salmon fishermen in the spring, they should have notice of this before exposing themselves to the danger of smallpox. \* \* \*

Respectfully,

CHARLES A. BOARDMAN,  
*United States Commercial Agent.*

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

# CHINA.

## *Cholera in Canton.*

(No. 161.)

CANTON, CHINA, *February 24, 1902.*

SIR: I am sorry to have to report to you that cholera, of the true Asiatic type, has made its appearance in Canton. The following report thereon has been presented to me by Dr. John M. Swan, of the American Medical Mission:

CANTON, CHINA, *February 24, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to report to you that within the past few days there have come to my notice at least 3 bona fide cases of cholera. While isolated from each other and of rather sporadic form, yet the fatal termination in each case, after manifesting the ordinary symptoms of true Asiatic cholera, leads me to the opinion that we should be on the sharp lookout for any further spread of this fatal disease in Canton.

True Asiatic cholera is so rare in this vicinity that its appearance is likely to cause alarm. Hence the importance of facts rather than rumor alone, so I shall endeavor to keep you posted in regard to any further developments relating to the presence of cholera. There is much complaint by the Chinese with regard to the water they are now obliged to use, many of the wells in the city having failed. If rain comes soon and the water supply improves, I think there is little danger of a real cholera outbreak. If there is no rain within the next few weeks we may expect to see a good many cases of the disease.

Respectfully,

JOHN M. SWAN,  
*Surgeon in Charge of Medical Missionary Society's Hospital.*

Hon. ROBERT M. MCWADE, *United States Consul, Canton.*

Dr. Swan is one of the most eminent physicians in China, and has had considerable experience in the treatment of the plague, cholera, smallpox, leprosy, and other diseases peculiar to the East. He is most conservative in his statements, and any official report emanating from him ought to be accepted unhesitatingly.

We have had no rain in this section for several months, and, apart from the possibility of the rice crop being ruined by the drought, and much suffering, a famine may be entailed thereby. Medical men and others who have been residents of Canton for many years fear an early outbreak of the plague if we do not soon have heavy rainfalls. The water of the Canton River and of the wells in Shameen and Canton has a decided saline taste, and all of the tributary rivers and creeks are very low. I am glad to be able to inform you, however, that there has not been a case of plague in Canton or its immediate vicinity this season. Mr. F. A. Morgan, commissioner at this port of the imperial Chinese maritime customs, reported to me this morning that a number of bodies of Chinese victims of the plague and several patients in its last stages have been quietly sent here by the authorities of Hongkong within the past few days. On arrival here the bodies are immediately buried in hermetically sealed coffins by the members of the 2 Chinese benevolent organizations, the Oi Yuk Tong and the Kwong Sai native hospital.

The latest reports from Shui Tung are that the plague is still prevalent there and that upward of 400 deaths therefrom have occurred in that locality.

I herewith confirm the following cablegram sent to-day relating to the foregoing:

SECRETARY OF STATE, *Washington, D. C.*: Several deaths Asiatic cholera, Canton. No plague.—MCWADE.

Respectfully,

ROBERT M. MCWADE,  
*United States Consul.*

HON. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

CANTON, CHINA, *March 3, 1902.*

SIR: In further continuation of my No. 161, regarding an outbreak of cholera, I have the honor to report as follows:

On Friday, February 28, 1902, I learned through several reliable sources that a large number of deaths had occurred through cholera in the most densely populated portion of Canton. On that date 2 deaths of Europeans occurred in Shameen, 1 young Englishman employed in the Chinese imperial maritime customs service and the other Lieut.-Commander E. A. Baird, of H. B. M. gunboat *Britomart*. On the previous afternoon Baird was playing tennis; on that night he dined with some friends in Shameen and returning to his boat before midnight was suddenly attacked with acute pain; he shortly afterward became unconscious and his death occurred ten hours later.

I cabled you on that date as follows:

SECRETARY OF STATE, *Washington, D. C.*: Asiatic cholera increasing. Captain Baird, British gunboat *Britomart*, victim.—MCWADE.

I have to-day, March 3, 1902, received the following official report from Dr. John M. Swan, which fully explains itself:

CANTON, CHINA, *March 3, 1902.*

SIR: Referring to my letter to you of February 23, in which I reported that I had up to that date seen 3 cases of true Asiatic cholera in Canton, I have now to report that during the past week I have seen 3 more cases, each of them in the algid stage when I first saw them and each proving fatal. I have also received reliable information as to the existence of 10 other cases, all of them ending fatally. The cause, in each of the cases I have seen, and in several of the other cases reported to me, was either due to drinking unboiled river water or partaking of pork that had previously been injected with river water. I have been making careful inquiry as to the prevalence of cholera in and about Canton but can get no information showing that the disease is generally prevalent or that there are more than 1 or 2 cases occurring in any one locality. There is no evidence as yet that the disease is epidemic. In fact many of the Chinese to whom I have addressed inquiry seem to have no knowledge of the prevalence of cholera. I have also not been able to hear of a single case of plague thus far this year.

Respectfully,

JOHN M. SWAN, M. D.,  
*Surgeon in Charge of Medical Missionary Society's Hospital.*

HON. ROBERT M. MCWADE, *United States Consul.*

I have also the honor to add that Superintendent Lindberg, of the municipal police, reported to me this morning that for the past eight days upward of 30 deaths have occurred daily through cholera in that part of Canton immediately adjoining the little creek which divides Shameen from Canton.

The deaths in almost every instance are directly traceable to the river and well water which the natives use without boiling. In the case of Lieutenant Commander Baird, however, he admitted before becoming unconscious that he had drunk some milk which had not been boiled. Almost all the wells in the city are dried up and whatever water is obtained from them is foul smelling and has a stale, salty taste. Of the

water in the Canton river, same description will apply. No rain has fallen here for months; the creeks are drying up rapidly. The rice crop will likely prove a total failure unless heavy rainfalls occur within the next few days. Although this is termed the rainy season, it is the driest season experienced in south China for the last seventeen years.

Respectfully,

ROBERT M. McWADE,  
*United States Consul.*

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

COSTA RICA.

*Yellow fever at Limon.*

[Cablegram.]

LIMON, COSTA RICA, *April 17, 1902.*

Three cases yellow fever, death yesterday.—CARSON.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

CUBA.

*Reports from Cienfuegos, Casilda, and Santa Cruz del Sur.*

CIENFUEGOS, CUBA, *April 14, 1902.*

SIR: Through the chief quarantine officer for the island of Cuba, I have the honor to transmit the following weekly report of transactions in the district under my command, for the week ended April 12, 1902: Eighteen deaths have occurred in this city. Of these, 8 occurred in the civil hospital. No contagious diseases reported. Causes of death: Tuberculosis, 4; insufficiency, mitral, 3; paludism, 2; myelitis, 1; enteritis, 1; gangrene, 1; cancer, 1; congenital debility, 1; tetanus, infantile, 1; hemorrhage, cerebral, 1; pernicious fever, 1; Bright's disease, 1. Death rate per 1,000 inhabitants, 23.46. Eleven vessels inspected and passed, granted free pratique; 4 vessels admitted without inspection; 13 alien steerage passengers inspected and allowed to land, and 17 bills of health issued to vessels prior to departure.

*Casilda.*—Acting Asst. Surg. Alejandro Cantero reports 7 deaths in the city of Trinidad. No contagious diseases reported; 12 vessels inspected and passed, granted free pratique; 11 bills of health issued to vessels prior to departure, and no alien steerage passengers landed at that port.

*Santa Cruz del Sur.*—Acting Asst. Surg. Pedro M. Quevedo reports, for the week ended March 29, no deaths at that port, and 5 vessels inspected and passed, granted free pratique; 3 bills of health issued to vessels prior to departure, and no alien steerage passengers landed at that port.

*Santa Cruz del Sur.*—Acting Asst. Surg. Pedro M. Quevedo reports, for the week ended April 5, 1 death at that port. No contagious diseases reported in that vicinity; 5 vessels inspected and passed, granted free pratique; 6 bills of health issued to vessels prior to departure, and no alien steerage passengers landed at that port. Recapitulation of weekly reports from Santa Cruz del Sur for the month from February 23 to March 29 as follows: one death at that port; no contagious diseases